

REMARKS

These remarks are directed to the office action mailed September 20, 2007, setting a three month shortened statutory period for response set to expire on December 20, 2007. The office action issued by the Examiner and the citations referred to in the office action have been carefully considered.

Prompt reconsideration is requested in view of the above claim amendments and the following remarks. As indicated, amendments introduce no new matter.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 112

Claims 33 and 34 are rejected under 35 USC §112 as being indefinite. Claims 33 and 34 have been canceled rendering this rejection moot.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 103

Claims 32-38 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combined teachings of Liao, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,827,525), Balinth (U.S. Pat. No. 4,335,026), and Doyle, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,551,490).

Claim 32, the only independent claim, has been amended to recite a hydrocolloid composition comprising “**about 95% to about 30% polyisobutylene...**” This is supported in paragraph [0026] of Applicant’s specification. Balinth (US ‘026) teaches using **5% to about 15%** by weight of isomeric liquid polybutenes (column 3 line 27).

Doyle et al. (US ‘490) teaches using **5 to 30%** polyisobutylenes (column 3 line 33-34). As stated earlier, amended claim 32 recites the hydrocolloid composition comprising **about 95% to about 30%** polyisobutylene.

Amended claim 32 also recites the hydrocolloid composition further comprising “**about 20% to about 40%** hydrophilic particles.” This is supported in paragraph [0030] of Applicant’s specification. Balinth teaches using **up to 10% fillers** (column 6, lines 55-56), which includes silicas (column 4, line 9).

Liao et al. (US '525) teaches hydrocolloid adhesives that "contain 40 to 60% hydrocolloid powders with the remaining being hydrophobic rubbers." (column 2, lines 8-10) Liao et al. defines hydrocolloid powders as "materials that exhibit very high water absorption," (column 2, line 11-12) essentially hydrophilic particles. Therefore, Liao et al. teaches using **40 to 60%** hydrophilic particles. As stated earlier, amended claim 32 recites the hydrocolloid composition comprising **about 20% to 40%** hydrophilic particles.

Applicant submits that amended independent claim 32 teaches limitations outside what is taught or suggested by the cited references. Therefore independent claim 32 and the claims dependent therefrom are not obvious and patentable under 35 USC §103.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in good order for allowance, and such early action is respectfully solicited. Should matters remain, which the Examiner believes could be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fee(s) or any underpayment of fee(s), or to credit any overpayments to **Deposit Account Number 50-2638**. Please ensure that Attorney Docket Number 070377-010200 is referred to when charging any payments or credits for this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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